

**Land & Water
Conservation Committee**

Tom Rudolph, Chair
Wilbur Petroskey, Vice-Chair
Matt Matteson
Jack Martinson
Guy Hansen
Rod Kuczmarski, FSA Member



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LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE and TIME: Monday, April 24, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Rm. 1 (second floor)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rudolph, Petroskey, Matteson, Kuczmarski, Martinson, and Hansen

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Hollands, Barb Payne, Jean Hansen and Tom Melnarik

1. Meeting was called to order in the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room 1 at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Rudolph, who indicated that this meeting is a public meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee, which was properly posted and the media was notified.

2. **MOTION (Matteson/Martison), to approve the minutes of the April 7th meeting and the current agenda. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

3. Committee Reorganization – Tom Rudolph was appointed as Chairperson of the Land and Water Conservation Committee. Matteson nominated Wilbur Petroskey as Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations for Vice President. **MOTION (Matteson/Rudolph), to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Petroskey. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Rudolph requested nominations for the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association representative. Matteson nominated Rudolph as the North Central representative. There were no other nominations for North Central representative. Martinson nominated Matteson as the alternate. There were no other nominations for the alternate. **MOTION (Matteson/Martinson), to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Rudolph (representative) and Matteson (alternate). Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Rudolph asked for nominations for the Lumberjack RC&D representative. Guy Hansen nominated Tom Rudolph as the Lumberjack RC&D representative. There were no other nominations for Lumberjack RC&D representative. **MOTION (Matteson/Martinson), to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Rudolph. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Rudolph nominated Wilbur Petroskey as the alternate for Lumberjack RC&D. There were no other nominations for alternate. **MOTION (Martinson/Matteson), to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Petroskey. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

4. The Lake District Representatives were discussed. **MOTION (Matteson/Hansen), to nominate the following LWCC supervisors to serve as the representative to the respective lake districts, and to submit these recommendations to the county board for approval. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Jack Martinson – Bear Lake

Guy Hansen – Thunder Lake

Tom Rudolph – Horsehead Lake

Wilbur Petroskey – Mid Lake

5. Set date for next meeting – The committee set the May meeting for May 17th at 1:30 p.m. and the June meeting for June 28th at 8:30 a.m. The Land & Water Resource Management Plan Meeting was rescheduled for Friday, May 26th at 9:00 a.m.

6. Public comments – Wilbur reported that Cliff McGuire, former NRCS State Conservationist, passed away at the age of 75. Cliff was the State Conservationist from 1980-1989.

7. Wildlife Damage Program – Hollands reported that DNR sent out the wildlife damage claim payments. Rod Kuczmariski stated that he had received his damage claim payment. Hollands also reported that Freda Waalkens hadn't contacted her about fencing for the beehives.

8. Update on LWCD Typist II position vacancy – Hollands reported that the LRES Committee supported the permanent part-time typist II position. She explained that the position was posted on the union bulletin board for five days. She stated there were no applicants from the courthouse for this position. An ad advertising the position will be published in the North Star Journal and the Rhinelander Daily News. The deadline for submitting applications for the position is May 4 at 4:30 p.m. The applications are handled through Job Service. The qualified applicants are then scheduled for testing and interviews. Hollands said it would be approximately the end of May before the position was filled.

9. County Cost Share Program – Jean Hansen reported on the Nokomis Project, which include three adjacent properties. The owners of these properties are Genelin, Seroogy/Rothering, and Singletary. Jean stated that she is waiting to hear from the Singletarys. Their property is the middle parcel of the Nokomis Project. A certified letter was sent to Singletarys to determine if they want to proceed with Cost Share Program. The Phebus project is waiting for bids. Ciolkosz needs to complete their planting plan. The Smeatons of Minocqua will wait to see if funds are available before they can proceed with their cost share project. Hansen stated that in the future she would like to have more shoreline buffers and plantings implemented instead of riprap. Tom Melnarik (NRCS) who has worked for the county in the past stated that riprap is still necessary where there is fluctuation of water by dams located on various lakes. Another issue that would promote the necessity of riprap on lakes would be the amount of boat traffic on that particular lake. Melnarik stated that, based on his past experience, each cost share project needs to be evaluated individually as to its specific needs.

MOTION: (Hansen), to change the standard funding 70% to 50%. This motion was rescinded and revised. REVISED MOTION: (Hansen/Matteson) to change the standard cost share funding from 70% to 50% starting January 1, 2007. A roll call vote was taken: Kuczmarski – aye, Martinson – aye, Matteson – aye, Hansen – aye, Rudolph – nay, and Petroskey – nay. Motion carried with four ayes and two nays.

Guy Hansen asked the committee to consider another approach to funding. It would involve a \$50.00 tax credit on the landowner's real estate taxes. He mentioned Burnett County as an example of using a tax credit on the tax roll. **MOTION (Hansen/Martinson), to invite Dave Ferris of Burnett County to attend a future Land & Water Conservation Committee meeting to explain the methods he has used with tax credits for the property owners in Burnett County. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

10. Soil & Water Resource Management Grant Contract for 2006 – Hollands reported on the SWRM grant contract for 2006. She stated that we would be receiving \$94,069.00 for staffing, \$60,687.00 for the county cost-share program, and a carryover of 2005 cost-share funds of \$10,755.00 for a total of \$165,511.50. **MOTION (Petroskey/Martinson), to approve the 2006 SWRM contract as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

11. Environmental Education Scholarships (Youth & Teacher) – Hollands stated that the 2006 Youth Camp is being held in Rusk County at the Trails End Camp on June 20 -23. The Land & Water Conservation Committee has budgeted \$200.00 for these scholarships. This allows two students from Oneida County, who will be entering the grades 9 – 11 this fall, to attend the camp. Hollands informed the Committee that the letters to schools and the press releases would be sent out. This year Bart Sexton (Solid Waste), Mike Cheslock (Northwoods YMCA), and Jim Winkler (UW-Extension) will also be sent the informational packets.

Hollands stated that the Land & Water Conservation Committee has budgeted the amount of \$435.00 for a teacher (s) in Oneida County to attend one of the sessions on environmental education offered at Trees for Tomorrow. Hollands informed the Committee that the letters to the teachers and the press releases would be sent out. Petroskey requested that he would like to receive the information on the Trees for Tomorrow Scholarships. **MOTION (Hansen/Matteson), to approve proceeding with the 2006 Youth Camp Scholarships and the 2006 Trees for Tomorrow Scholarships. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

12. Land & Water Resource Management Plan Update

- a. Agreement with Regional Planning Commission – Hollands stated that she would contact Dennis Lawrence of the North Central WI Regional Planning Commission to make sure there will be a sufficient number of copies available. We will need approximately 30 copies. Hollands reported that she and Jean Hansen have been working on forming a Citizen Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee. A suggestion from the Committee was to ask the Lakes & Rivers Association to be on the Technical Advisory Committee. Hollands stated that formation of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee should be completed by the LWCC Planning meeting in May. A list of the committee members will be supplied to the LWCC members.

Hollands reported that the Technical Advisory Committee did the majority of the legwork on the previous plan.

13. Non-Aquatic Invasive Species (Grants)

- a. Contractual service for DNR grant – Hollands reported she contacted Lori Regni in regard to providing contractual services for the DNR grant. Regni declined the offer of working for LWCD on a contractual basis. She stated that she doesn't have the time as she is currently working for DNR and also has her bookkeeping jobs. One of the concerns is the cost of insurance for independent contractors. Liability and workmen's compensation insurance has to be provided by the person(s) employed in contractual services. Hollands stated that we could use an LTE in this position. If an LTE were hired, Hollands would have to go before the LRES Committee Personnel for approval. It could be something to consider in 2007.

Jean Hansen reported on various workshops that have been scheduled. There is a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop being held May 3rd. There are two workshops scheduled for May 25th. One is another Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop and the second workshop is Citizen's Lake Monitoring. Another Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop is scheduled for July 20th. We will have kits available for workshop participants. The kits are being provided by Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department, Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Committee, and the DNR through grant money. This grant has been earmarked for educating the public so they become aware of the non-native aquatic invasive species that threaten our lakes.

Hollands suggested that we could prepare a memo and invite someone from the Forestry Department to work with us to monitor the Oneida County-owned boat landings for non-native aquatic invasive species. Jean mentioned there would be a public forum held on April 25th at the Northland Pines High School. They will discuss the issue of chemically treating lakes for Eurasian Water-Milfoil to eradicate it.

14. Report on Wisconsin Lakes Conference, April 20 – 22, Green Bay – Committee members who attended were Wilbur Petroskey, Tom Rudolph, and Guy Hansen. Petroskey reported this conference was one of the better ones he has attended. He stated there were abundant examples provided to study and visualize. One item in particular that Petroskey mentioned was Rain Gardens. These Rain Gardens are places where rainwater run off can be used in creating a mini wetland that is aesthetically pleasing to the eye and very beneficial to the environment. These techniques help to filter the rainwater run off before it reaches our drinking water resources, lakes, and rivers. Matteson stated that there is a Rain Garden located in Rhinelander by the High School.

Guy Hansen shared with the committee the legal ordinances addressed and distributed at the Conference. Hansen distributed these handouts to Hollands for the Land & Water Conservation Department. Hansen reported that he attended a workshop that implemented use of tax rebates to encourage farmers to do conservation practices.

Rudolph reported that he had received a binder at the Lakes Conference that contains information on the Lakes Districts. Hollands asked Rudolph for a copy for the office.

15. Lake Districts/Agency Reports (FSA, NRCS, LWCD, UWEX, DNR, LWCB, WLWCA & RC&D) -

Lake Districts – Petroskey stated that Mid Lake District hasn't had any activity. Rudolph reported on the Horsehead Lake District meeting that was held on April 5th. There was discussion on the budget and grant application. They are checking into options for weed harvesting. Guy Hansen said he still hasn't heard anything from the Thunder Lake District. Martinson said the Bear Lake District hasn't had any activity.

FSA – Kuczmarski reported that Susan Hunter will be writing loans from the Rhinelander Office. Some of the deadlines are already past.

NRCS – Tom Melnarik reported there are fifteen new EQIP Projects for 2006 with construction starting soon. NRCS has been working with Forest and Florence Counties to generate more interest. Melnarik stated that NRCS would help Hansen with cost share projects if needed. Melnarik stated that he has been taking courses on Conservation Planning and he would soon complete the course work and become certified.

LWCD – Hollands reported that the auditors were here the week of April 17th and everything went well. The DATCP grant applications for 2007 were completed and sent in by the deadline of April 15th. The 2005 financial and accomplishment reports were also completed. Hollands and Payne assisted Forest County Land Conservation with completion of their 2005 financial and accomplishment reports. Hollands stated the 2006 Soil and Water Stewardship Week Observance is the week of April 30 – May 7th. Hollands reported that the office has been very busy with the part-time Typist position still vacant. The job description was updated for the part time position.

UWEX – No report was given.

DNR – No report was given.

LWCB – Rudolph reported that he attended a LWCB meeting on April 4th. He attended a separate ad hoc committee meeting in Trempealeau County concerning the issue that Trempealeau County doesn't want to maintain their Farmland Preservation Program workload. They wanted to know what to do to continue funding. Rudolph reported that Sauk County has some exclusive agricultural zoning issues they are under a deadline to resolve. These issues have to be resolved so the farmers are able to sign up. The next LWCB meeting will be June 6th in Madison.

WLWCA – There was discussion regarding the WLWCA president and when his current term expires. Rebecca Baumann contacted Tom Rudolph to ask if he would participate in a conference call with the president.

RC&D – Rudolph reported that Forest County hasn't held their reorganization meeting yet. Therefore Forest County hasn't selected their representatives. There will be a public hearing on May 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the Wausau Campus location. This hearing is intended to establish new rules for obtaining permits for temporary stream crossings.

16. Monthly Budget Review – **MOTION (Petroskey/Martinson), to approve the December 2005 Adjustment III Expense Analyses for both the Land & Water Conservation Department budget and the Wildlife Damage budget as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye. MOTION (Matteson/Petroskey), to approve the March 2006 Expense Analyses for both the Land & Water Conservation Department budget and the Wildlife Damage budget as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

17. Out-County Authorization -

April 25 th	AIS Presentation - Eagle River
May 3 rd	Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop - Rhinelander
May 15 th	Public Hearing on Temporary Stream Crossings Meeting – Wausau
May 22 nd	Oneida Co. Lakes & Rivers Assoc. Meeting – Rhinelander
May 24 th	Four County Meeting – Vilas County
May 25 th	Clean Boats, Clean Waters/Citizen Lakes Monitoring Workshops – Rhinelander
June 9 th	North Central Association Meeting - Antigo
June 21 st	WLWCA – LCC Supervisor Training - Rhinelander
June 23 rd	Conservation Observance Day – Langlade County
July 20 th	Clean Boats, Clean Waters - Minocqua

MOTION (Matteson/Kuczmarski), to authorize the committee and appropriate staff to attend the meetings listed above. Motion carried, all voting aye.

18. Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers. **MOTION (Kuczmarski/Petroskey), to approve payment of the vouchers as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

2006

Land Conservation Department Account

The Country Today One-Year Subscription Renewal	\$ 30.00
Ace Welding Supply, Inc. Purchase one fifty-pound box welding rods (Portable Timber Bridge)	\$ 85.00
Northland Printing and Supply Company Printing of 5,000 Stewardship Week Bulletins	\$ 54.50

2006

Wildlife Damage Program Account

No invoices were submitted.

19. Items for the next meeting agenda – Wildlife Damage Program Update; Soil & Water Resource Management Plan Update, Non-Native Aquatic Invasive Species Update; County Cost Share Program the Nokomis Project.

20. Other items (for discussion only) – Nancy mentioned that Manny Oradei had the high school do the welding on the Portable Timber Bridge. He suggested that we purchase a box of welding rods for the High School for doing the welding work.

21. Adjourn – **With all business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. by MOTION (Martinson/Matteson). Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist